WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1. A thermosetting adhesive composition comprising a protein-based component and a polymeric quaternary amine cure accelerant.
- 2. The composition of claim 1, wherein said accelerant is the reaction product of a polyamidoamine and a halohydrin.
- 3. The composition of claim 2, wherein said halohydrin is epichlorohydrin.
- 4. The composition of claim 2, wherein said polyamidoamine is the reaction product of a polyamine and a polycarboxylic acid.
- 5. The composition of claim 1, wherein said composition is in an aqueous solution.
- 6. The composition of claim 2, wherein said polyamidoamine is chain-extended by reaction with a dialdehyde prior to reaction with epichlorohydrin.
- 7. The composition of claim 6, wherein said dialdehyde is glyoxal.
- 8. The composition of claim 1, wherein said protein-based component comprises soy protein.
- 9. The composition of claim 1, wherein said accelerant represents from about 10% to about 60% by weight of the combined amount of accelerant and protein-based component.
- 10. The composition of claim 1, further comprising a wax emulsion.
- 11. A method of making a thermosetting adhesive composition, said method comprising mixing a protein-based component with an aqueous solution of a polymeric quaternary amine cure accelerant.

- 12. The method of claim 11, wherein said protein-based component comprises soy protein in powder form.
- 13. The method of claim 11, wherein said protein-based component comprises soy protein suspended in an aqueous solution.
- 14. A thermosetting cellulosic composition comprising the thermosetting adhesive composition of claim 1 and a cellulosic material.
- 15. The thermosetting cellulosic composition of claim 14, wherein said cellulosic material comprises a wood element selected from the group consisting of wood flakes, wood strands, wood fibers, wood particles, wood layers and mixtures thereof.
- 16. The thermosetting cellulosic composition of claim 14, wherein said cellulosic material further comprises a plant fiber.
- 17. The thermosetting cellulosic composition of claim 14, wherein said cellulosic material is present in an amount from about 85% to about 98% by weight.
- 18. A method of making a wood composite, the method comprising:
 - (a) applying the composition of claim 1 to a cellulosic material to yield a thermosetting cellulosic composition, and
 - (b) consolidating said thermosetting cellulosic composition to yield said wood composite.
- 19. The method of claim 18, wherein said wood composite is particleboard or fiberboard.
- 20. The method of claim 18, wherein said consolidating step (b) comprises forming a mat from said thermosetting cellulosic composition and pressing

said mat at a temperature from about 170°C to about 190°C for a time from about 3 to about 10 minutes.